

REMARKS

Upon entry of this preliminary amendment, claims 5-8, 19-22 and 24-45 will be pending in this application. Claims 25, 27, 29 and 31 are independent. Applicant has canceled claims 1-4, 9-18 and 23 without prejudice to the subject matter contained therein.

Applicant has amended original claims to conform to U.S. patent practice and no estoppel or other limitations have been created.

Applicant has not raised any issue of new matter.

Conclusion

The specification is believed to be in the proper format. The present claims define patentable subject matter. Favorable action is solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that a conference would be helpful in advancing the prosecution of this application, please telephone Applicants' Attorney at the number below.

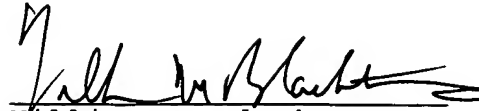
If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2334 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly,

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Customer No.: 31846
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extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,



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